

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is our Savior.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to say what Jesus did for them and why.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 2:4-12, Jesus' Birth; Luke 5:17-26, Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man; Matthew 28:1-7, Jesus Has Risen

INTRO:

Some of the most interesting trivia you can learn is about real people. Take the presidents of the United States for example. Did you know that Ronald Reagan had a thing for Jelly Beans? They were his favorite snack, and when he became president, Jelly Bean sales went through the roof.

Richard Nixon loved bowling and had a bowling alley installed in the White House. Thomas Jefferson was most likely the first president to serve ice cream. Teddy Roosevelt was shot while giving a political speech - and still finished the speech before he sought medical treatment.

Of course presidents are remembered for much more than these little trivial things. We remember their courage in times of crisis. We remember their successes, and we remember their failures. We remember the way they shaped our country and changed the world.

Today we come to the most important person in the Bible. All of the events that have come before - the Creation, the first sin, the judges, the kings, the prophets - all of it leads up to the moment when God sends Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, and he is the Messiah that Isaiah and the other prophets promised would come.

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy ever spoken about him, and in doing so, he changed the whole course of history.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ LUKE 2:4-12

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy about his birth, from the town where he was born to his family's escape to Egypt. Jesus came exactly the way the prophets said, hundreds of years after they wrote about him.

READ LUKE 5:17-26

Jesus performed countless miracles. Of the ones recorded in the Bible, he healed the sick, made the lame to walk, restored sight to the blind, walked on water, and even raised the dead. Then, when his time had come, he died and rose from the grave himself.

READ MATTHEW 28:1-7

MAIN POINT:

Many men have changed the world, for good or for bad, but no one had the impact that Jesus had. From the beginning, when Adam and Eve sinned, we were separated from God. Thanks to Jesus, we are no longer separated. We can have a personal relationship with Jesus, and we can have eternal life. Jesus is exactly who the prophets promised he would be, and if we believe in him, we can have a new life!

DRIVE IT HOME:

The coming of Jesus happens at the beginning of the New Testament. It is the moment in the Bible, and in time, when everything changes. Every moment up until Jesus arrived, from the Creation to the Judges to the Kings to the Prophets, has led up to his arrival. Now that Jesus has come, the old ways are gone. A new way has come!

Everything after the Gospels points back to Jesus as well. The history of the early church and all the letters that follow come in response to Jesus. Jesus' followers establish a new church, and it becomes their desire to live their lives in a way that pleases him.

We can have our own moment of change when we accept Jesus as our Savior. When you ask Jesus into your heart, the old is gone and the new has come. Jesus wants to show you how to live a new life. He wants to use you to draw other people to him. He wants to give you eternal life in Heaven.

There's no one like Jesus in all of history. Only Jesus is the Messiah. Only Jesus can change our lives.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let's thank God for Jesus, and the amazing love he brought us.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*